**What is Claimed is:**

1. A method for detecting hepatitis C virus in a biological sample comprising the steps of:

contacting said sample with an anti-human antibody and at least one monoclonal anti-hepatitis C virus envelope protein antibody under conditions that allow an immunologic reaction between said antibodies and said sample; and

detecting the presence of immune complexes of said antibodies and said envelope protein.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said anti-human antibody is attached to a solid phase.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said solid phase is selected from the group consisting of microtiter plates, paramagnetic particles, and paramagnetic beads.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said monoclonal antibody reacts with an epitope selected from the group consisting of an e2 conformational epitope, an e2 linear epitope, an e2 linear neutralizing epitope, e1 conformational epitope, an e1 linear epitope, and an e1 linear neutralizing epitope.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one monoclonal antibody reacts with an e2 conformational epitope, an e2 linear epitope, an e2 linear neutralizing epitope, e1 conformational epitope, an e1 linear epitope, an e1 linear neutralizing epitope, or a combination thereof.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said monoclonal antibody is detectably labeled.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said anti-human antibody is contacted with a polyclonal anti-hepatitis C virus envelope protein antibody prior to contact with a biological sample.

8. A method for detecting hepatitis C virus in a biological sample comprising:

contacting an anti-human antibody attached to a solid phase with a polyclonal anti-hepatitis C virus envelope protein antibody;

contacting said sample to said polyclonal antibody;

contacting said sample with at least one detectably-labeled, monoclonal anti-hepatitis C virus envelope protein antibody under conditions that allow an immunologic reaction between said antibodies and said sample; and

detecting the presence of immune complexes of said antibodies and said envelope protein.

9. A method of screening blood components or blood for hepatitis C virus prior to the use of such blood or blood component to prepare blood products comprising:

reacting a body component from a potential donor with an anti-human antibody and at least one monoclonal anti-hepatitis C virus envelope protein antibody under conditions that allow an immunologic reaction between said antibodies and said body component;

detecting the presence of immune complexes formed between said antibodies and hepatitis C virus envelope proteins; and

discarding any blood or blood component from said donor if said complexes are detected.

10. A kit for detecting hepatitis C virus in a biological sample comprising:

an anti-human antibody;

at least one monoclonal anti-hepatitis C virus envelope protein antibody;

control standards; and

instructions for use of the kit components.

11. The kit of claim 10 further comprising a polyclonal anti-hepatitis C virus envelope protein antibody.

12. The kit of claim 10 wherein said anti-human antibody is attached to a solid phase.

13. The kit of claim 10 wherein said monoclonal antibody reacts with an epitope selected from the group consisting of an e2 conformational epitope, an e2 linear epitope, an e2 linear neutralizing epitope, e1 conformational epitope, an e1 linear epitope, and an e1 linear neutralizing epitope.

14. The kit of claim 10 comprising a plurality of monoclonal antibodies which react with an e2 conformational epitope, an e2 linear epitope, an e2 linear neutralizing epitope, e1 conformational epitope, an e1 linear epitope, an e1 linear neutralizing epitope, or a combination thereof.

15. The kit of claim 10 wherein said monoclonal antibody is detectably labeled.